

We claim:

1. A method for maintaining a computing device, comprising the acts of:
receiving an indication of an end of persistence for a peripheral device;
monitoring for an event related to the end of persistence; and
removing support information associated with the peripheral device based on
detection of the event related to the end of persistence.
2. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 1, further
comprising the act of storing an indicator of the end of persistence.
3. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 1, wherein the act
of storing an indicator comprises storing the indicator in a database of configuration settings
associated with the computing device.
4. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 3, wherein the act
of monitoring for an event comprises monitoring the database of configuration settings
associated with the computing device.
5. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 1, wherein the act
of monitoring for an event comprises running an event monitoring thread.
6. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 5, further
comprising booting the computing device and starting the event monitoring thread after
booting the computing device.
7. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 1, further
comprising the act of installing the peripheral device on the computing device prior to the act
of monitoring for the event.

8. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 7, wherein the act of installing the peripheral device comprises the acts of:

providing a representation of a physical location of the peripheral device in relation to an area encompassing the physical location of the peripheral device;

receiving an indication via the representation that access to the peripheral device is desired;

retrieving support information associated with the peripheral device; and

installing the retrieved support information on the computing device,

wherein the act of removing support information comprises removing the support information retrieved and installed on the computing device.

9. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 8, wherein the act of providing a representation comprises the acts of accessing the representation via a browser application on the computing device.

10. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 8, wherein the peripheral device comprises a printing device and the act of retrieving support information comprises downloading the support information via a second computing device using requests in compliance with the Internet Printing Protocol.

11. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 10, wherein the second computing device comprises the printing device.

12. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 8, wherein the act of retrieving support information comprises querying a second computing device having access to a plurality of support information associated with the peripheral device to determine which of the plurality of support information is appropriate for the computing device.

13. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 12, wherein the computing device has an environment and the act of querying comprises the act of providing the second computing device an indication of the environment of the computing device, further comprising the act of receiving support information appropriate for the environment of the computing device.

14. The method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 8, wherein the act of retrieving support information comprises the acts of:

receiving an indication of a location of support information appropriate for the computing device; and

retrieving the appropriate support information from the location.

15. A method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 14, wherein the act of retrieving the appropriate support information from the location comprises using one of a File Transfer Protocol Get operation, a Hypertext Transfer Protocol Get operation, and a Internet Protocol Get-Client-Print-Support-Files operation to download the appropriate support information from the location.

16. A method for maintaining a computing device according to claim 12, further comprising the acts of:

receiving an indication of temporal status of at least one file in the support information determined to be appropriate for the computing device;

comparing the temporal status of the at least one file in the support information determined to be appropriate for the computing device with a temporal status of any corresponding one of the at least one file already installed on the computing device; and

retrieving the at least one file in the support information determined to be appropriate if its temporal status is more recent than that of a corresponding one of the at least one files installed on the computing device.

17. A computer readable medium comprising instructions for maintaining a computing device, by:

receiving an indication of an end of persistence for a peripheral device;
monitoring for an event related to the end of persistence; and
removing support information associated with the peripheral device based on detection of the event related to the end of persistence.

18. A computing device comprising:

memory; and
a provider set of executable instructions operable to receive an indication of an end of persistence for a peripheral device capable of being operably connected to the computing device, to monitor for an event related to the end of persistence, and to remove support information associated with the peripheral device from the memory based on detection of the event related to the end of persistence.

19. The computing device according to claim 18, wherein a database of configuration information is stored in the memory and wherein the provider set of executable instructions is operable to write an indicator of the end of persistence into the database.

20. A system comprising:

a peripheral device; and
a computing device having memory and capable of accessing the peripheral device, the computer device being operable to receive an indication of an end of persistence for the peripheral device, to monitor for an event related to the end of persistence, and to remove

support information associated with the peripheral device from the memory based on detection of the event related to the end of persistence.

21. A computer data signal embedded in a carrier wave for transmitting executable instructions for maintaining a computing device, by:

receiving an indication of an end of persistence for a peripheral device;

monitoring for an event related to the end of persistence; and

removing support information associated with the peripheral device based on detection of the event related to the end of persistence.